MR. MURUKKUMPUZHA V. KUNJUKRISHNAN : May I know whether anybody here advocated communal representation in the matter of admissions ?

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI : I am sure that, that was the motive behind the motion. Acceptance of that principle in the matter of admissions to technical colleges will certainly stand in the way of higher standards being kept up.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR ; May I know whether any minimum marks could be fixed up as the standard for getting admissions in the Colleges ?

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI ; Yes, certainly.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN ; Sir, I am at one with all the sentiments expressed here by my friend Mr Kunjukrishnan. There are very many handicaps for the educationally backward communities to be remedied. Mr. Kunjukrishnan referred to the instance of reservation of seats in the Madras Colleges. In Madras 25% of the seats have been reserved for educationally backward communities so far as admission to the college is concerned.

Now Sir what I want to submit is that it is a sort of reservation for certain educationally backward communities up to a certain stage. It is admitted on all hands that a high standard of efficiency has to be kept up and it is also admitted that the spirit of communalism should not come in here. It is not on account of the narrow interest of communalism that this proposition is brought forward. It is to see that all sections of the people are in a position to enjoy the benefits that are drived from the University. In the matter of keeping up highest standards of efficiency in tact, my friend referred to the instance of two first class Ezhava students having applied for admissions in the Engineering College and their inability to get admission. But students who passed in the second class and who belonged to some other community were in a position to get admission. Without casting any reflection on the head of the Engineering College I may be permitted to state one fact.

PRESIDENT ; The time for the grant is over.

The motion that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 8,25,000 under Demand XVII—Travancore University was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIX—EDUCATION EXCLUDING TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY.

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 43,14,901 under Demand XIX—Education excluding Travancore University.

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Motion No. 1.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER : Sir, I move.

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 25,000 for grants to the Benares Hindu University and to the Medical and Engineering College at Madras by Re 1."

My object is to discuss about the necessity of giving preferential consideration to the applicants from educationally backward communities such as Ezhavas in the matter of selection of the candidates to the foreign Universities to which Government grant is allowed. I have to point out that only very limited number of candidates are selected by the Government to be sent up for qualifying themselves in the said Universities. For seven years the selection was going on and the educationally backward communities could not get a place as yet. If the selection to the Universities is not carefully made with an eye to safeguard the interests of the educationally backward communities, they are not likely to be benefited by the education given by such Universities which are benefited by the grants offered by our Government. Unless this question is sympathetically viewed by Government with an eye to give chances to the under represented backward communities, they can never get a seat in such Universities. It may be pointed out that the highest percentage of marks should be secured by the students belonging to backward communities also to get the selection I may point out that the reason for getting a low percentage ofmarks by backward people is not due to the intellectural defects of their candidates but it is due to other causes. The time honoured policy of the Government sir, is mainly responsible for that state of offairs. Certain sections of His Highness' subjects were prevented from getting themselves educated both in Colleges and the schools.

They have just begun to get themselves qualified. In course of time when their children and grand children of the present educated backward classes may go in for competitive examinations and comepte with the candidates of the priveleged communities, they are likely to come out successful. But now, the backward class candidates are situated in a very unfavourable position with reference to their education. The present situation is not brought into existence voluntarily by themselves. It is the direct result of a definite Government policy. To speak about myself, my native village is nearHarippad It happened that when I entered the First Form in the Government English School, Harippad all the students of the previleged classes in a body went out of that school. Only 4 or 5 of us and a few Christain students were left behind. That was the feeling of cast Hindus then in our village. Such feelings were manifested at that period at other places also. That was in the year 1080 M. E. That is not a distant past. If that was the condition of Ezhavas so recently what would have been the condition ofstill backward communities ? In the matter of Ezhava education some of us are the pioneers. We are the first students from our community. Under the circumstances how can higher standard in competitive examinations be expected of us. The very tradition has yet to be built up by us. So, I wish to point

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[Mr. K. Kunju Panicker]

out that when the Government make selection of candidates, they should sympathetically consider the case of candidates from educationally backward communities. Some spoon feeding is required for bringing them up. Such parental care as is necessary should be bestowed upon them because it was by the systematic policy of Government that they were denied these rights. Hence the Government should evince a benevolent consideration and render us particular help in the matter of selection. The candidates from the educationally backward communities in the land should be particularly assisted with the reservation of a certain percentage of seats. With these words I move the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : Sir, I rise to support the motion. On the cut motion on the University it was pointed out by my friend Mr. Kunjukrishnan that two Ezhava students who secured first class, and sought admission to the Engineering College were not able to compete successfully with certain students of certain other communities who were only second class people. By that he was not making any reflection on the Head of the Engineering College, nor on the method of selection. When students who secure very high marks in examination are again put to another test sometimes they may not be in a position to compete successfully with someother students who might have got a rank below the one which they got in the former examination. There may be various reasons for it. The situation has been very clearly explained by Mr. Kunjukrishnan and also by Mr. Kunju Panicker. There are various reasons why the educationally backward communities are not in a position to compete successfully with the candidates of educationally advanced communities. There may be historical or other reasons to which I am not here to refer to, nor is it my purpose. The matter remains that somehow or other the educationally backward communities are not at present in a position to secure the necessary number of admissions to the University Classes as per the Rules and Regulations existing at present. It was also referred that the whole question was gone into by the Madras University and after a thorough enquiry they have come to a conclusion that 25 per cent of the admissions may be reserved——

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL : May I inform the member that the Madras University has nothing to do with the admissions and control of our University.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN : I am informed that the Madras Government went into the question and they have arrived at the conclusion that 25 per cent of admissions to certain colleges may be reserved for educationally backward communities whenever and wherever such reservations are neeessary. We find that no account of this rule the Madras University has not suffered the least in the standard which they were keeping up. I am also informed that for the I. C. S. and T. C. S.

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Examinations a certain number of seats are reserved for certain communities who are not in a position to get the required number of candidates by open competition. Bp these rules the Public Service of British India has not suffered to any extent. Coming back to our own State the same cry was raised once that if in the Public Service of the State the principle of communal representation is accepted to any extent that would very much deter the efficiency of the public service of the State. At one time it was conceded by Government and also by some important sections of people. But later on those sections of pepole who were opposing the motion were themselves convinced of the force of the arguments. Now they have come to a voluntary agreement on the point. They have now adopted the principle of communal representation so far as the public service is concerned and our experience shows that we have not suffered in the least nor the public service of the State on that account. What I submit is not that we should carry the principle of communal representation in the matter of admission to the University but that some consideration may be shown to the educationally backward communities. It is not the principle of communal representation that is sought in this case but it is some sort of consideration and sympathy to the educationally backward communities who on account of historical and other reasons are put to a very disadvantageous position. A pointed reference was made to the number of students from the educationally backward communities coming down year after year especially this year in the University. This is a matter of very great importance and a learned member asked me what the reason was. I submit that so far as Ezhavas are concerned the economic depression and the present war have affected this community more than any other community. That is one of the reasons. The community is engaged in industries and other occupations of a similar nature. These are things which have to be taken into consideration.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has 2 minutes more.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: When we talk of some sympathy being shown to the educationally backward communities we do not claim it as a right. We know that the University has to keep a high standard of efficiency. But at the same time as the illustrations which have been brought to the notice of the House would show if we are going at the present rate of admission in the University one fears whether in a few years the educationally backward communites such as the Ezhavas Nadars, Muslims and Syrian Catholics will be in a position to give the necessary output of qualified persons for the reserved seats of the Public Service. My learned friend the leader of the National Party referred to the fact that solely to satisfy the demands of certain communities we cannot admit students to the University classes. But what I would submit is that if we are going at this rate in the matter of admission to the colleges we will not be in a position to turn out the minimum output of candidates required for the reserved seats of the different departments of the State. With the request that the question may be sympathetically viewed by Government I support the motion.

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI : May I know whether the member is aware that the question before the House is not what the member has been speaking about.

MR. A. GOPALA MENON : Sir, at the very outset I have to disabuse the notion of the members that the University of Travancore has anything to do with the selection of candidates to the Medical or Engineering Colleges in Madras. The selection rests with the Government and they have at every time shown their utmost sympathy to the claims of educationally backward communities.

PRESIDENT : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 A. M. tommorrow.

The House adjourned at 5 P. M.

V. S. ARUMUKHOM PILLAI,
Secretary to Sri Mulam Assembly.

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